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## CEO ROURKE

### Plato on Vacation

I took the kids to Horne Lake  
and there he was  
spelunking with tourists  
in a 'Save-the-Planet' t-shirt  
intense eyes below a headlamp  
searching dark damp recesses  
between stalagmites  
for some long lost idea  
of Beauty  
connected to Earth  
not the ephemeral form  
but the *thing* itself  
buried in soil  
rooted and living

*Naturalist/poet, Ceo Rourke is an award winning writer and a graduate of Vancouver Island University. Widely published in anthologies and literary journals, Ceo writes from a small island cabin, inspired by marine life, coastal storms, and the tenacity of trees.*

## KATERINA FRETWELL

### Effluvium

*Yet, when 19 countries agreed ... to establish the Millennium Development Goal ... sanitation was initially left out.*

—Jermy Keehn, "The Toilet Papers,"  
*The Walrus* Vol.11

Joshed I'd eulogize the many-foliate  
toilets in my travels — blooming  
dorm-like squats at Ephesus  
pissoirs chez Paris, loo of Waterloo  
urine streams at Badaling  
two-seater on my honeymoon

but sanitation is a serious matter  
2.5 billion, a quarter of us  
lack safe dumping grounds  
fertilizing field, forest, potable water  
with fecal fungi. Diarrhoea culls  
800 million children every year.

We rush to invent affordable  
portable, waterless water closets  
for World Toilet Day — finally  
our effluent forms the agenda.  
On tour, hurtling by shacks  
flowering on a dump, I begged

*Halt!* Bus stopped for me, cresting  
on a hilltop, I crapped in Crete.  
Fecal transplants cured Crohn's  
in a wraith-like child — but the Lab  
growing healthy microbes was forced  
to shut down — microbes not sterile.

*Katerina Vaughan Fretwell's eighth poetry book, which includes her arrrt, Dancing on a Pin, was published by Inanna Publications in 2015. Five of the poems placed as "runner-up" in subTerrain's Outsider Poetry Contest, 2015. Her seventh book, Class Acts, also published by Inanna in 2013, was included in Kerry Clare's Most Important Books of 2013: Poetry on the online 49th Shelf. She lives in Seguin, Ontario.*